

The Correct Names for the African Blue Pansy (*Junonia oenone* L.) and the African and the Oriental Yellow Pansy (*Junonia hierta* Fabricius) Butterflies (Lepidoptera : Nymphalidae)

By T. G. HOWARTH

(Department of Entomology, British Museum [Natural History])

There has been considerable confusion over the scientific names of the two African butterflies, commonly known as the Blue and Yellow Pansies, the specific name *oenone* Linnaeus of the blue and black species being transferred indiscriminately to the other.

The original description of *Papilio oenone* Linnaeus (1758, *Systema Naturae* Xth ed. Vol. 1. p. 473) reads 'alis denticulatis: primoribus albido-maculatis subbiocellatis; posticis basi cyaneis ocellis duobus.' and there is no doubt that this refers to the African Blue Pansy though Linnaeus cited figures of the yellow species. As Corbet pointed out in 1941 (*Proc. R. ent. Soc. Lond.* (B) 10 (2): 19 footnote) and again in 1945 (*Proc. R. ent. Soc. Lond.* (B) 14 (7 & 8): 94) 'It is evident that Linnaeus confused the two but the name must be reserved for the African species.' formerly known as *clelia* (Cramer). Corbet was dealing with *Junonia hierta hierta* (Fabricius, 1798) under *Papilio lintingensis* Osbeck (1765), which name has since been suppressed (see *Bull. zool. Nomen.* 1968, 25 (1): 6 Opinion 842).

Linnaeus (1764, *Museum Ludovicae Ulricae Reginae* p. 274) re-described *oenone* in detail and placed the African and Oriental species *hierta* (Fabricius) as 'Varietas oenones'.

Cramer (1775, *Pap. Exot.* 1, p. 33) re-named the Blue Pansy as *Papilio clelia* and wrongly associated the Yellow Pansy with the name *oenone* (Linnaeus).

Trimen (1870, *Trans. ent. Soc. Lond.* p. 353) in a footnote when dealing with his *Junonia cebrene*, correctly summed up the situation but was incorrect when he stated in the last part of his last sentence, "I suppose, therefore, that, in strictness, the name *Oenone* should attach to Cramer's *Clelia*; but in that case *Oenone*, auct., would require a new nomination; and it will perhaps be better to let the recognised *Oenone* stand as "*Oenone* Fabr.," the latter author's description in *Systema Entomologiae* (1775) being unmistakably that of the butterfly generally known by that name."

Kirby (1871, *Synonymic Catalogue Diurnal Lepidoptera*) on p. 187 deals with the Blue Pansy under the name *clelia* (Cramer) and then later, on p. 648 of the appendix, corrects this so that *clelia* (Cramer) is placed as a synonym of *oenone* (Linnaeus) and *oenone* sensu Cramer as a synonym of *hierta* (Fabricius).

Aurivillius (1882, *K. svenska Vetensk-Akad. Handl.* 19 (5): 80) when dealing with the Lepidoptera described by Linnaeus in the *Musei Ludovicae Ulricae*, under the name *oenone* Linnaeus, was of the opinion that the specimen mentioned in the Xth edition which Linnaeus probably had in his collection was referable to a variety, as the word 'black' had been omitted from the description and goes on to say that he thought it

inadvisable to change the name from *clelia* because Clerck and other authors were of the same opinion.

It is extremely unfortunate that Aurivillius still persisted in using the name *oenone* (Linnaeus) for the wrong species when writing the African section of Seitz (1913, *Macrolepidoptera of the World*, 13: 225, 226), as a number of authors have followed this standard and very often, to them, the only available comprehensive work on the African butterfly fauna.

However, it is fortunate that this section of the Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) collection was correctly arranged many years ago, probably according to the appendix of Kirby's *Catalogue*, by Sir Guy Marshall, so that authors such as Peters (1952, *Provisional Check-list of the Butterflies of the Ethiopian Region*) who used this collection, were correct in the allocation of names, though the latter author should have given the date for *oenone* (Linnaeus) as 1758 rather than 1764 and included *var. oenones* (Linnaeus, 1764) as a synonym of *hierta* (Fabricius) with *cebrene* Trimen as a subspecies of *hierta*, not as a synonym of that species.

The following is a list of the aberrational, formal and subspecific names associated with the two species, which, for the most part, were described under the genus *Precis*.

Junonia oenone (Linnaeus)

- oenone oenone* (Linnaeus 1758)
- = *clelia* (Cramer 1775)
- ab. *bipupillata* (Strand 1912)
- ab. *caeruleffugiens* (Heslop 1962)
- ab. *posterior* (Strand 1912)
- ab. *subbipupillata* (Strand 1912)
- ab. *subvirilis* (Strand 1912)
- ab. *subepiclelia* (Strand 1911)
- ab. *subtriocellata* (Strand 1912)
- ab. *triocellata* (Strand 1911)
- ab. *viridata* (Strand 1911)
- ab. *virilis* (Strand 1912)
- ab. *vosseleriana* (Strand 1911)

oenone epiclelia (Boisduval 1833)

Junonia hierta (Fabricius)

- hierta hierta* (Fabricius 1798)
- = *oenone* auct.
- hierta magna* (Evans 1926)
- hierta cebrene* (Trimen 1870)
- ab. *aeolus* (Stoneham 1965)
- ab. *conjuncta* (Stoneham 1965)
- ab. *demaculata* (Neustetter 1916)
- ♀ f. *sudanica* (Schultze 1920)
- hierta paris* (Trimen 1887)

The author is extremely grateful to Mr H. Barlow for some translations and to Mr N. D. Riley, Mr W. H. T. Tams and to Mr R. I. Vane-Wright for many helpful suggestions regarding this note.

AN INTERESTING IMMIGRANT.—I am pleased to report the occurrence of a female specimen of the rare immigrant butterfly *Argynnis lathonia* L. (Queen of Spain Fritillary) at Tal-y-Wern, Machynlleth, Montgomeryshire on the 3rd September 1969. The time in question was 2 p.m. in bright sunshine, when the insect was fluttering over brambles in an open valley near coniferous woodlands. Mr Peter Crow informs me that he believes this to be the first record of this species from Montgomeryshire.—D. LEATHERDALE, Eastfield Lodge, Whitchurch, Oxon. 23.ix.1969.